



# Department of State

E-387

TELEGRAM

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FH SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO ANAMBASSY STOCKHOLM IMMEDIATE  
INFO ANAMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 12065: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, UR, US

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS GUIDANCE ON WALLENBERG  
HEARING

REF: STOCKHOLM 027 ✓

1. FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE HAS BEEN PREPARED FOR USE ON  
CONTINGENCY BASIS SHOULD DEPARTMENT PRESS OFFICE RECEIVE  
INQUIRIES REGARDING U.S. OFFICIAL COMMENT ON WALLENBERG  
HEARING TO BE HELD JANUARY 15-16 IN STOCKHOLM. BEGIN  
TEXT:

QUESTION: DOES THE DEPARTMENT HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE  
JANUARY 15-16 "HEARING" IN STOCKHOLM, SPONSORED BY THE  
SWEDISH WALLENBERG ASSOCIATION, TO REVIEW EVIDENCE THAT  
WORLD WAR II HERO RAOUL WALLENBERG MIGHT STILL BE ALIVE  
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IN PRISON IN THE SOVIET UNION?

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE	IS/FPC/CDR
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELEASE	<input type="checkbox"/> DECLASSIFY
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCISE	<input type="checkbox"/> DECLASSIFY
<input type="checkbox"/> DENY	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PART
<input type="checkbox"/> DELETE	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Responsive Info
FOIA Exemptions	
PA	
Exemptions	

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ANSWER: THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN CONCERNED OVER THE FATE OF SWEDISH DIPLOMAT RAOUL WALLENBERG SINCE HIS DISAPPEARANCE AT THE END OF WORLD WAR II. IN RECENT YEARS, WHEN REPORTS HAVE COME TO LIGHT SUGGESTING THE POSSIBILITY THAT WALLENBERG MIGHT STILL BE ALIVE, WE HAVE SUPPORTED THE INITIATIVES OF THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT TO OBTAIN A CLARIFICATION OF WALLENBERG'S FATE. IN ADDITION, WE HAVE RAISED THE MATTER DIRECTLY WITH SOVIET AUTHORITIES ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS.

THE SOVIETS RESPONDED FORMALLY AND IN WRITING IN FEBRUARY OF 1980 THAT WALLENBERG HAD DIED IN 1947 AND THAT THEY WOULD HAVE NO FURTHER INFORMATION ON HIM IN THE FUTURE. THEY HAD PROVIDED THE SAME REPLY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF SWEDEN IN THE PAST. WE HAVE CONTINUED IN OUR ATTEMPTS TO SEEK INFORMATION CLARIFYING HIS FATE. MOST RECENTLY, IN DECEMBER OF 1980 AT THE MADRID CSCE REVIEW CONFERENCE, THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION VOICED ITS SUPPORT FOR THE POSITION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SWEDEN WHEN THE SWEDISH DELEGATION URGED RENEWED EFFORTS TO RESOLVE THE WALLENBERG CASE. THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE WOULD WELCOME ANY DEVELOPMENT THAT MIGHT ASSIST IN CLARIFYING THE FATE OF THIS COURAGEOUS MAN. WE WILL BE FOLLOWING THE STOCKHOLM HEARING WITH GREAT INTEREST.

QUESTION: IN VIEW OF THE REPORTS INDICATING THE POSSIBILITY THAT WALLENBERG MIGHT STILL BE ALIVE, DOES THE DEPARTMENT ACCEPT THE SOVIET ASSERTION THAT WALLENBERG DIED IN 1947?

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ANSWER: WHILE WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO VERIFY ANY OF THE REPORTS INDICATING THAT WALLENBERG IS STILL ALIVE, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THE SOVIETS HAVE PROVIDED AN ADEQUATE CLARIFICATION OF WALLENBERG'S FATE. THE FAILURE OF THE SOVIETS TO PROVIDE A FULL, DETAILED ACCOUNT OF HIS FATE PREVENTS A DEFINITIVE ACCEPTANCE OF THE SOVIET ASSERTION THAT WALLENBERG DIED IN 1947. END TEXT.

2. ADDRESSEES MAY USE ALL OR PART OF GUIDANCE IN RESPONSE TO INQUIRIES THEY MIGHT RECEIVE ON THE HEARING.

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